Foreword: Message From the Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy

The Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) is pleased to offer the first detailed report on how each state and the District of Columbia spent the 20 percent primary prevention set-aside portion of their Federal Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant funds. This report describes the range of activities funded through the 20 percent set-aside and will help mobilize states to share information on how to use their resources most effectively to prevent drug abuse. The prevention activities described in this report are inspired by the long-term goal of reducing drug abuse and its consequences in America. The states and the District of Columbia are to be commended for their commitment to this important aim.

To date, little information has been available--other than the block grant applications--regarding how states spend the prevention set-aside. This document was prepared by the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD) through a Memorandum of Understanding between ONDCP and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The resulting report provides information on the set-aside expenditures by state and states' own primary prevention expenditures. The goal of this project was to obtain information about the scope of primary prevention efforts in each state, encourage states to develop relationships with their prevention partners, share information, and assist in approaching a drug-free future for our nation's youth.

The report is limited in a number of ways.

- First, at the time the report was prepared, Federal Fiscal Year 1995 was the most recent year for which complete audited information was available.
- Second, the SAPT block grant has increased since the years addressed in this report, providing states with additional resources to address prevention needs. For example, in FY 96 SAPT appropriations totaled \$1.2 billion, which was expanded to \$1.5 billion in FY 99. The President's request for FY 2000 is \$1.6 billion.
- Third, as evidenced in the report that follows, states vary in their ability to conduct needs assessments. States currently assess treatment needs, but most do not have a systematic way to identify prevention needs. Due to the paucity of available data, many states are unable to provide accurate figures of people served.
- Fourth, the report focuses on funds spent under the 20 percent set-aside only and thus does not capture all of the prevention activities funded in whole or in

part by the Federal Government. For example, activities funded through the Safe and Drug-Free Schools program are not described here.

- Fifth, states had some difficulty providing information on state funds expended on prevention activities. Initially, in FY 95, fifteen states indicated that they did not spend any state funds on prevention activities. After further investigation, it was discovered that seven of these states did indeed spend state funds on prevention but not through the same agencies that oversee SAPT funds.
- In addition, while each state agency requires grantees to establish performance goals in their applications for funding, most states were unable to provide measurable outcomes resulting from these grants. Thus, there is no clear measure of effectiveness.

ONDCP applauds the states for providing a broad range of activities and services often with limited staff. As the profiles detail, states creatively address prevention through a wide array of efforts including afterschool programs, drugfree workplace programs, and mentoring.

A number of recommendations are proposed to enhance state prevention efforts:

- Performance goals should be established for prevention in each state that have measurable outcomes in order to demonstrate the effectiveness of prevention efforts.
- The impact of new requirements on existing prevention priorities, such as the
 implementation of the Synar Regulation, needs to be assessed. Although not
 addressed in the years covered by this report, states are now using SAPT Block
 Grants to enforce State youth tobacco control laws, but it is not known what
 impact this has had on other prevention efforts.
- In FY 95, eight states did not spend state funds on prevention activities, raising concern that these states do not view prevention as a priority. Additional information is needed on why some states choose not to allocate funds for prevention.

• The feasibility of requiring state prevention specialists to be certified or trained regarding prevention strategies that have proven effective through research should be explored. Such professionals would be key to ensuring that each state is allocating its block grant funds on prevention efforts that are research based and have been demonstrated to be effective.

The importance of preventing drug abuse cannot be overstated. The SAPT Block Grant program is vital to achieving Goal One of our *National Drug Control Strategy* "to educate and enable youth to reject illegal drugs as well as alcohol and tobacco." ONDCP commends SAMHSA for its leadership in using the Block Grant program to create a comprehensive approach to drug abuse prevention that addresses the family, school, and mental health problems that may lead to substance abuse and other destructive behavior. NASADAD is to be lauded for its efforts to pull together information on states' prevention activities and to encourage information sharing among the states. ONDCP is confident that through continued collaboration with such prevention partners as SAMHSA and NASADAD, we will meet our goal of reducing drug abuse and its consequences.

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Director
Office of National Drug Control Policy